

## **REMARKS**

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed September 16, 2002. The abstract was objected to, and the claims were rejected under §103.

### **Objection to the Abstract**

The abstract was rejected to because it contained more than 150 words. Applicant has amended the abstract to be less than 150 words. Thus, Applicant submits that this objection has been overcome.

### **Section 103 Rejections**

Claims 1-14 were rejected under §103 as being unpatentable over Fowlow in view of Cain. Applicant submits new claims 15 – 68 to more fully and completely claim Applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable over the Fowlow and Cain references, either singly or in combination.

The Fowlow reference relates to a method for visually constructing object oriented application software that is to be installed on a distributed object system. Figure 5 of the Fowlow patent illustrates a composition design environment which is evidently used for visually constructing object oriented application software. As shown in Figure 5 of Fowlow and discussed beginning at column 11 line 1:

“The connections between parts and other parts or interfaces is made using plugs such as shown at 544, and sockets such as shown at 546. ... a socket is a representation of a service provided by an object, comprising usually an object reference that is passed by that object to another requesting object. A plug, conversely, is a service that an object is capable of requesting and processing. As will be known to those with skill in the object programming arts, objects communicate amongst themselves by passing and operating upon object references which communication is represented schematically by drawing connections (such as connection 536) between the plug of a first object and a socket of a second object.”  
(See column 11 lines 1-28)

Applicant respectfully submits that the Fowlow reference does not teach the notion of a “graphical data flow program” as recited in the present claims. A graphical

data flow program may be defined as a program comprising a plurality of nodes or icons, wherein the nodes or icons are interconnected by lines, and wherein the lines represent the flow of data between the nodes. The Fowlow reference does not teach or suggest the concept of a graphical data flow program. Evidently, the connections between object icons described in the Fowlow reference represent object references that are used to request services as represented by a “socket”. Thus, the Fowlow reference does not teach the notion of a graphical data flow program.

Further, the Fowlow reference does not teach the notion of a node in a graphical data flow program that is configurable or operable to invoke a method of an object or get or set a property of an object. Applicant submits that the Cain reference does not teach or suggest these missing limitations. The Fowlow reference does not teach “configuring the first node with information regarding a first method of a first object.”

Thus, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are allowable.

With respect to the steps of “providing class information” and “providing type library information”, which appear in various of the new claims, the Office Action refers to column 12 lines 14 – column 13 line 16. However, this cited portion merely refers generally to search and navigation features. The cited portion of Fowlow provides absolutely no teaching or suggestion as to steps of “providing class information” or “providing type library information”. The Cain reference also does not teach or suggest these features.

With respect to “querying said type library to determine a set of methods”, the Office Action refers to the Cain reference. However, the cited portions of the Cain reference simply do not teach or suggest these elements. In fact, the term “type library” does not appear at all in the specification of Cain.

Thus, Applicant submits that the pending claims are allowable.

## CONCLUSION

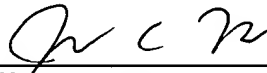
Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5150-18301/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement w/form PTO 1449 and D2-D3
- ☐ Notice of Change of Address
- ☒ Fee Authorization
- ☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,



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